

Timeline: World War I

General Historical Events

Diplomatic Documents & Events

1914

June: Franz Ferdinand Assassinated
July: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia

Aug.: Germany declares war
France declares war
Great Britain declares war

Aug.: Woodrow Wilson's Declaration of Neutrality

Oct.: The Heart-Breaking Condition of the Poor

Nov.: Food for Starving Belgians

1915

Feb.: Germany begins submarine blockade of Britain

Mar.: First passenger ship sunk by U-boats

Apr.: Germans first use poison gas

May: Lusitania sunk; 128 Americans killed

Jan.: The Starvation of Millions

1916

Mar.: Pancho Villa raids New Mexico

Aug.: Germany suspends U-boat attacks

Nov.: President Wilson re-elected

1917

Feb.: Wilson ends diplomatic relations with Germany
Germans launch unrestricted submarine warfare

Mar.: In Russia, Nicholas II abdicates

Feb.: The Zimmerman Telegram

Mar.: Seeds of Revolution: Discontent in Petrograd
A Most Amazing Revolution
U.S. recognizes new Russian Government

Apr.: Joint Address to Congress Leading to a Declaration of War
A New Chairman

June: First American troops arrive in France

July: The Plight of Refugees

Oct.: October Revolution in Russia

Oct.: Situation Desperate
An Appeal from the King
A Question of Military Strategy

Nov.: Proclamation of Soviet Russia

Dec.: Russia signs a separate peace with Germany

1918

Mar.: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

July: Wilson agrees to intervene in Siberia
Russian royal family executed on Lenin's orders

Oct.: Germany ends unrestricted submarine warfare

Nov. 11: War ends at 11 a.m.

Jan.: The Fourteen Points

Aug.: State Department Press Release on Russian Intervention

Oct.: Colonel House's Interpretation of Wilson's Fourteen Points

1919

Jan.: Peace conference begins in Paris

Apr.: League of Nations founded

June: Treaty of Versailles signed

Economic Consequences of the Peace

Apr.: Covenant of the League of Nations

Sept.: Wilson's Appeal for Support for the League

Nov.: Excerpts from the Senate Debate on the League of Nations
Reservations of Senator Lodge